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Robotics students
present their automated
clock assembly line
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SPOKE

"Keeping Conestoga College Connected"

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28th Year — No.31

Kitchener, Ontario

September 9, 1996

Two Conestoga instructors create computerized assistant

By Jason Seeds

No one can deny that the role of computers in education has skyrocketed over the last decade. Walk around the A-wing on the Doon campus and all you will see is computer rooms, about 11 of them in fact.

Nearly every course at Conestoga involves classroom computer time. However, the use of our computers as educational tools has been limited.

One reason for this is that the conventional classroom, with an instructor at the front, seems to work fine.

Another reason is that there is no software good enough to allow computer-shy students to sit in front of the screen and learn something.

Two of Conestoga's own, Brad Nelson, who teaches mechanical engineering technology, and Nancy Nelson, who teaches electronic engineering technology, are making great headway in the area of computer-based training (CBT).

The married couple have invested eight years of their lives into two programs, PS Author and PS Reader, under their company, Private School Interactive.

The Windows-based programs allow the teacher to custom design

a lesson, including images, sound clips and video clips, with user-friendly Windows tools such as a mouse.

But the best feature is that the program the student uses, PS Reader, can evaluate the student's progress by testing them, and gives advice on how to study better. In short, it gets to know the student and will adapt to his or her learning style.

While a teacher must teach all the students in the class in the same manner — visually or spatially — PS Reader can teach each student in a manner that suits him or her.

This information is presented in graphic or text format, and can be called up any time throughout the study period.

After the teacher has prepared the lesson in PS Author, the file the student opens under PS Reader is much like an old-fashioned textbook. The big difference is that it talks, shows videos and gives advice according to what it knows about the student.

What's more, a single program (or textbook) can be used by the instructor to teach an infinite number of subjects.

Brad said PS Reader alone took about 350 pages of computer code, written in Visual Basic, to complete. And that's not including

the approximately 150 pages of Visual C++ code Nancy wrote for the student evaluation.

There are other CBT programs, Norbrie and Tool Book for example, but none as easy to use as the Private School programs, said Brad.

"Teachers don't like to change. With this program they can prepare class material like they would have before."

With Norbrie and Tool Book, instructors must learn computer code to design a lesson for their classes. "Not too many teachers have time to learn code," said Brad.

While this program is not at all meant to replace teachers, Brad said it could be very useful for alternative delivery teaching, distance education in particular.

Kevin Mullan, vice-president of finance and administration, saw a demonstration of the program last June during the annual Employees for Excellence conference at Doon campus.

"This CBT program is unique because teachers are the ones programming it; I think that makes a big difference," he said.

Tool Book, Norbrie and many other programs of this style are designed and written by computer programmers, who can easily overlook students' needs.



TEACHING TOOL — Brad Nelson works on a computer-based training program he and his wife Nancy are developing.

(Photo by Jason Seeds)

Security office key to after hours

By Kevin Hansen

Some things you didn't know about security at Conestoga College.

Students new to the college this year will be busy in September learning how to get around the school and all of the small bits of information that go along with life at Conestoga.

Many of them won't realize however that a lot of this information is available through the security office, located just beside the learning resource centre on the main floor of the campus.

Students who come in late at night to work on assignments may be surprised to know that they must have their student card on them to access the computer labs.

"That's something we have to stress. Have your student card on you all of the time," said Janet Smith, a security guard at the college.

Without a student card, students will not be granted access to the computer labs.

The school is open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. but special arrangements can be made for students wishing to stay later.

A pass from a teacher is required for staying after 11 p.m. and must be shown to a security guard on duty.

Students intending to stay after 11 p.m. must be in the school before that time.

"Any exceptions to that students would have to clear with us, say if they worked until midnight like some students do if they work at bars or something," Smith said.

"There is a buzzer system at doors 3, 4 or 5 that students can use in case they come in later or if they've left at 11 and have car trouble, they can come back in."

Students must contact security and have their student card with them in order to have computer labs or other rooms unlocked after hours.

There is also a lost and found in the security office. Smith said, "We get a lot of computer disks in and people don't come looking for them."

More staff added to handle forms

OSAP still assessing students

By Johanna Neufeld

Students who applied to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) are now picking up their funds.

The financial aid office reported that 250 applications were assessed on Aug. 26, the first day students could start picking up their documents.

About 650 were assessed by that Friday. There is still approximately 1,000 assessments that are still being processed by the Ministry of Education and Training.

Carol Walsh, financial aid officer, said last month that students must register first before trying to get their financial documents.

The ministry stipulates that students must bring with them a valid social insurance card, proof of summer income and proof of registration to obtain the funds, she said.

She expects about 1,500 student assessments to be processed in early to mid-September. "Everyone can expect a small wait," she said, but the registrar's department will put on more staff to handle the traffic flow.

During the first two weeks of school, the registrar's office will have OSAP funds available from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. After those two weeks, students should come between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday.

Students attending either the Waterloo or Guelph campuses will receive their funds at their respective location.

If a student's funds have not arrived, the individual can pay a \$50 deferral on their tuition. Walsh said the College Emergency Fund will advance students up to \$500 interest free. The money is deducted when the financial documents arrive.

Walsh said things are as usual this year and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) strike this April didn't affect the processing of applications. The ministry had planned to change some aspects of OSAP but was unable to because of the strike.

The Ontario Work Study Plan is also in effect this year. Students should have already applied for the work program for this semester.

Applications for the winter semester are available in the Registration and Orientation Essentials 1996-96 booklet.

Walsh said about 50 students were hired last year in several departments on campus. Students work approximately six to 10 hours a week depending on the number of courses and upcoming assignments.

The ministry pays about 75 per cent of their wages while the college pays 25 per cent.

Most students work in the department for the full year, said Walsh.

More news in the registrar's office is that the department is now on-line, as of the week of Aug. 5. Walsh said the office will be able to check student applications, to see why financial documents are delayed and to correct any errors that could arise immediately.

Students who attend Conestoga at the last minute may still apply for funding.

Conestoga parking: it does get better

By Kevin Hansen

Every year about this time, parking at Conestoga becomes a valuable commodity.

Janet Smith, a Conestoga College security guard, said recently that things went more smoothly over the 1995-96 school year than they have in previous years.

Most people were able to find parking spots without any problem.

In previous years, Smith said, people have parked on the grass and in fire zones.

The only changes made to the parking at the college this year are a slight increase from \$115 to \$117 a year for general parking and from \$155 to \$158 a year for designated parking.

Motorcycle passes remain the same as last year at \$26 if they are bought separately and \$10 if they are bought in conjunction with a car decal, said Smith.

Motorcycle parking is located near the woodworking building between lots 4 and 5.

Also Lot 4 has been changed from daily parking to designated parking.

If someone buys a parking pass, and then decides to either withdraw or trade their pass with someone else, the transfer must be communicated to the security office in order to keep school records accurate, Smith said.

Conestoga College has 12 parking lots with a combined capacity of 2,598 automobiles.

Forty-one of these parking spaces are reserved as handicapped-parking spaces.

People wishing to park in these spaces, said Smith, must have an official government handicapped licence plate or sign on their cars.

Last year, Smith said, students could use a doctor's note to use the handicapped spaces, but that will no longer be the case as of September.

"Usually the first two months are bad because some kids have got their parents car and then after a while they'll start riding with somebody, or start taking the bus because it's too much hassle for parking, so it usually evens out eventually," Smith said. "We have guards there the first two weeks to a month to tell people what lots they're supposed to go in with the sticker they have."

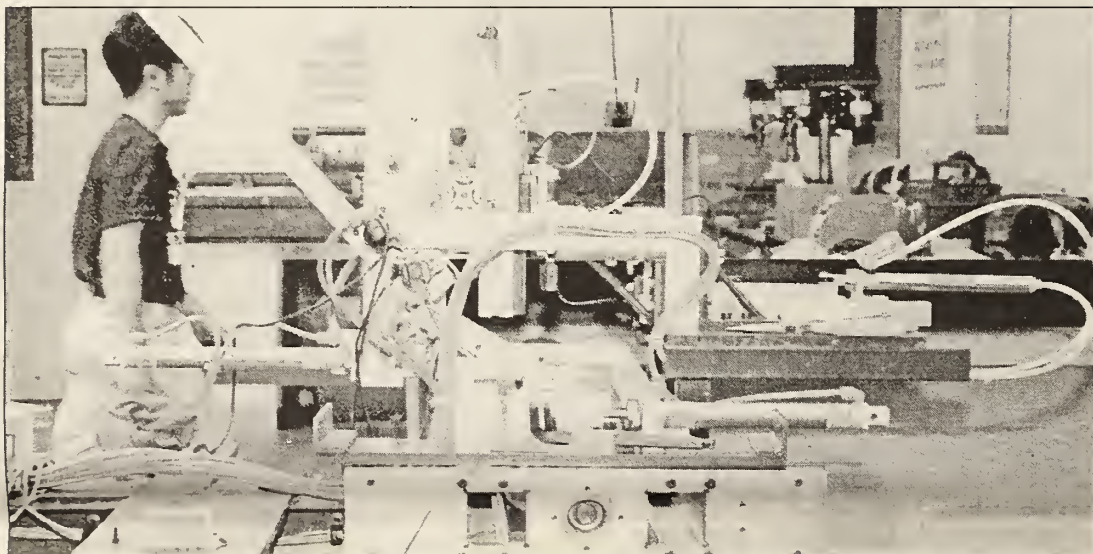
CORRECTION

In a column in the Sept. 3 issue of Spoke it was incorrectly reported that Conestoga President John Tibbits's salary exceeds those of the presidents at the three universities in Kitchener-Waterloo and Guelph.

Tibbits's salary is in fact \$123,894. James Downey of the University of Waterloo earns \$179,770; Lorna Marsden of Wilfrid Laurier earns \$215,556 while the University of Guelph's Mordecai Rozanski earns \$177,516.

Spoke regrets the error.

Assembly line class project earns workterm for students



CLOCKWISE — This machinery is part of station one on the assembly line of the third-year robotics and automation final project. Built entirely by the students, it feeds the base, motor and bushing of a clock onto a conveyer belt.

(Photo by Jason Seads)

By Jason Witzell

Students from the mechanical engineering technology robotics and automation program presented an automated clock assembly line to more than 100 employer representatives from the community on Aug. 21.

The display and demonstration were designed and built by students, applying skills they learned in the three-year co-op robotics and automation program.

Earlier this year, the class of 27 students was divided into six teams, with each team responsible for devising an idea and plan for a class project.

Each team made formal presentations, after which the entire class voted on a project, based on available time and material resources.

After the clock-assembly project was chosen, six teams began design and layout of the six separate work stations that make up the project.

The design stages involved many hours on the computer using the design program autoCAD.

Once the design phase was completed, the students began building and assembling elements of each station.

Representatives from all the companies in the region, who were invited to the demonstration and reception, supported the program by offering students co-op work term placements and by providing donated materials to the students for use in the assembly-

The pitter-patter of little feet

By Linda Reilly

The Early Childhood Education Centre is ready to welcome children back Sept. 3, according to Marie Roberts, team leader at the centre.

The centre was full through the summer and remains full for the fall.

"Enrolment has been stable over the past year," Roberts said.

The centre is open year-round from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, and accommodates children four months to 10 years old.

The children enrolled are a combination of students' and employees' children, as well as children from the community, said Roberts.

The program has a capacity of

101 children. The ratio of workers varies and depends on the age of the children, Roberts said.

The centre has a full-time staff of 11 and two permanent part-time workers plus a part-time cook.

"The employees at the centre work for the college but are support staff, not faculty," said Roberts.

They are also members of the Conestoga College Employees union.

Students from the early childhood education program work in the centre two days a week on a placement basis, she said.

"It is a teaching facility and there is a high need for placement positions for students," she said.

Roberts said the centre has

quality programs for young children. All programs include cognitive, social, physical and creative development skills. They are individualized, as much as possible, to the children's needs.

The program enrolment is by age. There is an infant to 18 months program, a toddler program, a pre-school program, an after kindergarten program and a school-age program.

School-age children are bused to and from the facility if they live within the vicinity of the school.

Roberts said the centre puts into practice philosophies taught in the program.

There is a waiting list for the program but Roberts said she can't predict if anyone on the list will get in or not.

Week Of Welcome '96

Just For the Fun of It!

Sportsarama

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Prizes! Prizes! Prizes!

the new
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DOON STUDENT SOCIETY

Wed. Sept. 11
3:30 pm

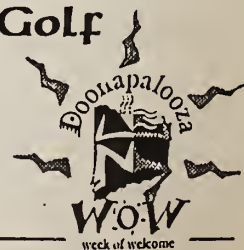
Recreation Centre

Week of Welcome '96

Best Ball Golf Tournament

Friday, Sept. 13

12:30 pm Tee Off
Doon Valley Golf
Course



Entry Fee \$25/person
Sign up at the DSA Office
by Sept. 11

the new
DSA
DOON STUDENT SOCIETY

International Beijing English teachers tour Doon campus

By Linda Reilly

Twenty-six English language teachers from Beijing wound up their three-week tour of Ontario at Conestoga's Doon campus on Aug. 17.

They came to Ontario to get information about English language teaching in Ontario and take it back to Beijing. While here, they were to find out more about Canadian culture and recreation.

Evelyn Scott of Belleville, who spent four years teaching English in China, along with Gong Yafin Nace, director of English Language Teachers Association in China, organized this pilot tour for teachers of secondary schools for cultural English language programs.

The first part of their three-week tour was spent in a wilderness camp, said Larry Rechsteiner, director of college planning and international education, who ad-

ded that they would be spending four days in this area with Conestoga's team.

Jing Hua, a researcher from (Haicuan) the People's University of China, said the culture and the schools in Ontario are different than in China.

"Canadian people are so friendly and speak frankly. They are very open-minded. It is easy to deal with Canadians."

Jing Hua, People's University of China

According to Hua, there are 40-50 students per class in Beijing high schools. The students spend six years in high school — three in junior high and three in senior high school.

She said the trip was a good experience for the teachers on

how to speak well. "The teachers found everything hard to understand the first week but are doing fine now," she said.

When asked how the teachers taught English without having spoken it, she explained that first they think in Chinese. They rely on the use of the textbooks and diagrams, emphasizing vocabulary and writing and listening skills.

Hua said that before they came here they did not have enough opportunity to speak English. On

this visit they've had good opportunities to talk to professors and other people whom they've encountered.

"It is very important for our teachers to be here," Hua said.

Cultural differences provided a valuable learning experience for many of the teachers, said Hua.

"When Chinese people have something to do, they think carefully; they don't let others know their ideas; they keep to themselves," she said. "Canadian people are so friendly and speak

frankly. They are very open-minded. It is easy to deal with Canadians."

Over the course of their three-week tour, the teachers have had many lectures about the social and cultural aspects of Canada and various teaching methods used in Canadian schools.

In four days they had been on tours of Toronto, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines and downtown Kitchener and attended a presentation at Brock University.



EXPERIENCING EDUCATION — Secondary school teachers from Beijing visit Doon campus Aug. 17 as part of a pilot project for cultural English language programs. (Photo by Linda Reilly)

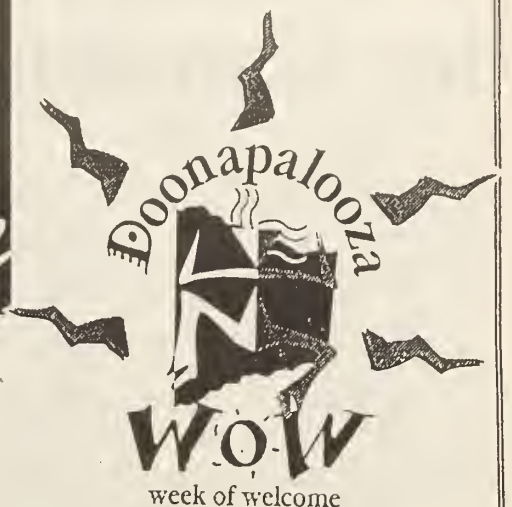
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Liberal education a necessity for Canada

By Patrick Moore

The price of a good education seems to be rising daily. Students can no longer afford to coast through their post-secondary education, picking up a course here and there and eventually completing their degrees. The real cost, however, is a liberal education.

With the cost of education increasing exponentially, and with Conestoga College being a job-oriented school, the value of a liberal education seems insignificant at best. This is simply not so.

"The liberally educated person is one who is able to resist the easy and preferred answers, not because he is obstinate but because he knows others worthy of consideration," said Allan Bloom, American author and educator.

A liberal education is not just something needed to complete a degree or course requirement. Education by its very nature opens the mind to new horizons and experiences. Every lesson learned opens new avenues to explore outside the conventional classroom.

American author James Baldwin said, "The paradox of education is precisely this — that as one begins to become conscious one begins to examine the society in which he is being educated."

Foregoing a liberal education denies a student what he or she needs most — the ability and desire to question all things not immediately acceptable. Without individuals willing to question, the civil rights and women's movements would have stalled before ever leaving the starting gate.

"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul," said English essayist Joseph Addison.

Education that covers thoughts and ideas beyond the scope of regular course work changes and shapes the student in ways far greater than can be imagined.

Knowledge of ancient Japan, information on the American Civil War and a thorough knowledge of insanity in the movie industry have a payback that will echo throughout a student's lifetime.

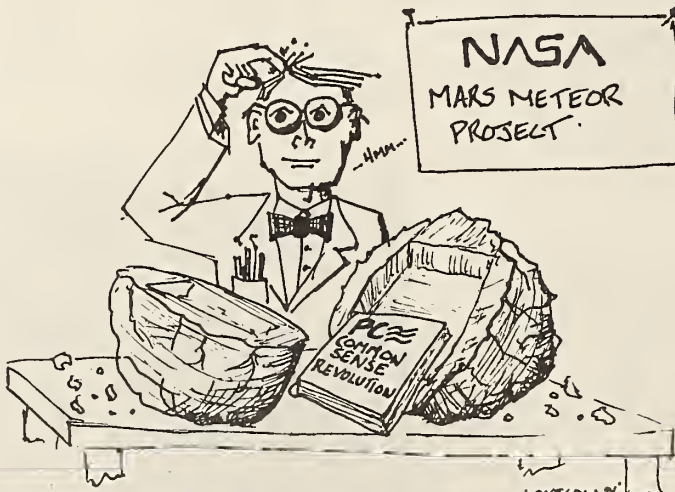
Lord Brougham, a Scottish politician, said, "Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave."

A typical excuse for not pursuing a liberal education is that Conestoga is a job-training institute. Students are here to train for jobs and that is it. A liberal education can be found at a good university.

There is no place greater to pursue a liberal education than at an institute of learning. The resources at Conestoga are ideally suited for the pursuit of extra-curricular knowledge. A little digging in the learning resource centre will provide an ample reward.

The most common excuse for not investing in a liberal education is lack of money. A liberal education is expensive.

However, in the long run, ignorance will cost much more.



"...SCIENTISTS REPORT THAT WHILE EXAMINATION OF THE METEOR HAS YIELDED SOME EVIDENCE OF RUDIMENTARY LIFE FORMS, THERE IS STILL NO PROOF OF INTELLIGENT LIFE ON MARS..."

Parental authority seen as a blessing in a retrospective glance

By Tracy Huffman



As a child, I was never able to quite understand my parents. Often my parents appeared to me as nothing but nasty elders who scorned wrongdoings and denied privileges.

Looking back on childhood, my perception is much different. In actuality, I was spoiled rotten. However, when I did something wrong it rarely went unnoticed.

I remember thinking that my parents' punishments were incredibly harsh. Once I couldn't play with a friend down the street for the day, and another time I wasn't allowed to go shopping with my mom.

It seems pretty silly now that at one time I thought such punishments were cruel and inhumane.

Although my parents, much like many others, may not have explained their reasoning in a manner that pleased me, their actions were indeed for my own good.

It got worse as I became a teenager, a time when discipline is more difficult to enforce. It is an age of rebellion, one which I always thought my parents never really understood.

But as I become an adult I realize that my parents did understand. The scoldings were not to harm, but merely to protect and to teach.

As an adult I am also learning that my parents are more human than I thought. They both got into their share of trouble in "their day" and they both dealt with whatever the punishment or conse-

quences may have been.

I thought I grew up in a strict household. Rules were rules, and they weren't made to be broken. Yet, I realize now that I was given opportunities that many people my age have yet to experience.

More and more each day I begin to sound like my parents. I scold the neighborhood children for their use of profanity and their lack of respect.

I use phrases I thought only old people used. I tell my friends to zip up their jacket or put on a warmer shirt. The echo is that of my parents' voices.

It is frightening how much I am becoming like my parents. But, for once, I am not even trying to rebel.

If I am able to carry on my parents' morals and beliefs with the same strength they have, I will be happy. In fact, I wouldn't want it any other way.

Journalist's ethics are improperly questioned as identity is uncovered

By Paul Tuns



Joe Klein, Newsweek's star political columnist, has been exposed as the author of Primary Colors. Nearly six months ago this best-selling novel, a political thriller many commentators likened to the life and career of Bill Clinton, was released — with one catch: the author was anonymous.

Klein had been on the short list of candidates as authors, but denied that he was the author. The question of ethics arises. Or more properly, questions.

The first question asked by media critics is probably the least consequential: How does this book, with undertones of Clintonism, affect Klein's objectivity? Very little. Klein is not a reporter but a commentator, for which objectivity is less important. Furthermore, there is no

evidence he wrote it with political motivations.

The second and more important question is about Klein's integrity. If he denied he was "anonymous" can we believe him about other things.

He knew he would be asked, a confession he made in the July 29 issue of Newsweek. But he said he could justify the lies. He had obligations to his publisher, Random House, that stipulated he was to remain anonymous. He said in the column that he denied he was the author when asked because his commitment as a novelist outweighed his commitment as a journalist.

To many journalists, that idea is anathema. Once a journalist, always a journalist, they say.

The reason he wanted to write the book anonymously, he says, is he wanted the work to be judged on its own merit, not as a work of Joe Klein. It was, but eventually the intrigue of who wrote it was more

important than what was written.

While Klein did nothing wrong, Newsweek itself is guilty of ethical violations left and right.

The magazine had an obligation to cover the news in a forthright fashion. Despite the fact Newsweek editor Maynard Parker knew Klein was the author, he allowed stories to be run hypothesizing who might have written it. He allowed the magazine to follow the rest of the media guessing who inside the Clinton campaign/White House knew enough about it to write the book.

If Newsweek did not want to expose Klein, it should not have covered the story at all.

Meanwhile, the movie rights have been sold and Tom Hanks, Emma Thompson, Jack Nicholson and John Malkovich are starring. And Klein is enjoying his new \$900,000 home.

The lesson in all of this: the real money is in writing fiction, not news.

COMMENTARY

Feeling slightly inspired, but sorely unathletic

By Allison Dempsey



Just when I thought everyone in the world was getting fatter and more unfit, I had to attend that athletic event in Waterloo.

After observing pleasantly plump to terrifically fat bodies squeezed into tiny bathing suits at Sauble Beach on the holiday weekend, it seemed there were very few toned people left. Lo and behold, they were merely in hiding, waiting to pounce at the duathlon. Not a very soothing place to be if you're feeling a tad out of shape and unsure of your physical attributes.

Tanned, lean and cut bodies filled every

square inch of the start-finish compound. Women and men aging from 12 to 65 were stretching and bending, manipulating their sinewy muscles in preparation for a seven-kilometre run (gasp, wheeze) followed by a 30-some-odd-kilometre bike ride (choke, gurgle).

It would have been bad enough had these people been single and vainly childless, but no, little athletic clones clung to their parents' hands and waists, toned tots sporting \$300 running shoes and bike shorts.

There was a lot of posing going on that day, as you might imagine. These people knew there were interlopers in their midst, ones who would never dream of pounding the pavement and sweating — just for fun! These athletes kept a watchful eye, and

when one of us passed by, they made sure we saw their rippling abs, their solid pipes, their perfect pees.

The equipment wasn't bad, either. High-tech was the name of the game, and every bicycle, helmet, running shoe and leotard was of the highest quality. No velour track suits with matching headbands for these people.

The more revealing the better, and even some of the men indulged with tiny bikini shorts and midriff-baring tank tops. It was all a veritable feast for the eyes.

But all I could think about as I stumbled around was the time these people must put into their training and physical upkeep. Didn't any of them have full-time jobs? Who looked after the children? With prize

money totalling about \$20 for first place, they certainly weren't making a living in competition. I envisioned hours of lifting weights in front of gym mirrors, gawking at flexed muscles hour after hour and counting ripples in the abdomen area. I got winded just thinking about it.

All in all it was a rather enlightening experience, as I imagined, for just a moment, that I too could be a contender. If I worked hard enough and long enough, I could enter the next duathlon, and then the triathlon (Iron Woman, of course). And, the crowning glory, I could be a competitor four years down the road in Sydney.

Then I started to sweat, so I got in my car and drove home, stopping for ice cream on the way.

Moving can be catastrophic

By Johanna Neufeld



It's time again. Time to move and get ready for the fall.

Who enjoys packing up all their worldly belongings and transporting them any great distance? Even the idea that school is starting again is depressing.

I think change is a terrible thing, mainly because I have no control over it. I am at its mercy and whether I like it or not, it's a part of life.

The reason for my rant is that my younger sister and only sibling is moving. Brigitta, who graduated from the University of Waterloo this May, is moving to Montreal because she has a teaching job.

Yes, it's a real job and a teaching one at that. She's lucky to have it and I wish her well.

One of her classmates accepted a position in New Zealand and will be moving there shortly.

If Brigitta hadn't found this job in Quebec, she'd be moving Down Under. Montreal is far enough.

Right now she is busy packing and if I'm not careful, Brigitta will take everything in sight.

For the second summer in a row, she and I have lived in a two-bedroom apartment. We get along alright but we've had our ups and downs as all siblings do.

She informed me the other day that she would be taking most of the pots and pans

with her. "Oh," I said quietly. The next day I tried to make lunch and couldn't find a single pot. I panicked and pressed the red button. The sparks flew. Mom said not to worry as she calmly reassured me she had lots of spare crockery.

I probably won't find out how much Brigitta has taken until she's over the border, and then she's too far to strangle.

Another issue was the living room furniture. I have an old coffee table for which she expressed a sudden desire. "Is that so?" I said.

I then saw her eyeing up my \$10 garage-sale television set with greedy intentions, but I quickly changed the conversation. There won't be a stick of furniture left by the time she leaves. Oh well, my new roommate says she has a couch, so I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

One thing Brigitta decided not to take with her was her mountain bike. I don't know why because it's the one thing I was counting on her taking.

She said something about not enough space in her new apartment. "I'll come back for it," she said. "All the way from Montreal for a bike?" I said.

There is lots of room in the rented van and when she's not looking, my secret mission is to get it on board. Wish me luck.

After several weeks of constant turmoil, life will hopefully settle into a routine.

When all is said and done, I wish her the best and I guess I'll miss her too. Just please don't take everything, Brigitta. Maybe hiding things will help.



Students unhappy, but coping with increase in tuition

By Linda Reilly

Students surveyed at Doon campus recently seemed to be resigned to coping with this year's increases in tuition.

"I'll be \$20,000 in debt before I've finished," said Ben Fox, a Conestoga student in the robotics and automation course.

Fox, in his final semester of his second year of a three-year program, said he's not pleased with the increase in tuition but would have to pay "a hell of a lot more tuition if I were in the U.S."

Classmate Jason Wadel, said he would just have to get a bigger loan at the Bank of Montreal.

Jeff Hazen, also of the robotics and automation program, said he would just have to work more.

Tuition increases this year appear to be larger than in the past.

According to Carol Walsh, a financial aid officer at the registrar's office, tuition has increased from \$1,109 in 1995-96, to \$1,295 in 1996-97. This amounts to about a

15 per cent increase.

Karen Stumpl, in her sixth semester of the registered nursing program, is not happy about the raise in tuition for the upcoming year.

She said she will cope with the increase by cutting back on the things she enjoys.

She also said she can no longer afford the place where she lives. Another burden for Stumpl is the cost of parking both at the college and at the hospital.

As part of Stumpl's course requirements,

she works two days a week at a hospital over the 16 weeks of her semester.

The cost of the parking there is \$3.50 a day or \$7 a week, in addition to her yearly pass at the college. At times, Stumpl said, she has wondered why she bothered with the course at all.

Hal Meister of the machine/tool set-up operation program, a 52-week semestered program, along with classmates Randy Chabot, Glenn Girvan and Bob Hentges, said the increase in tuition didn't affect

them because they were sponsored by unemployment insurance.

They said they took the program because they were told at an orientation course there was a 90 per cent placement rate.

Lisa McChesney, of the robotics and automation program, was asked how she would cope with the rising cost of tuition in the next semester.

With a big smile on her face she said, "I am done school on Aug. 21, so I won't have to cope".



Ben Fox



Jason Wadel



Jeff Hazen



Karen Stumpl



Hal Meister



Lisa McChesney

Shootin' hoops



John Pelkey (left) and Tony Piotto discuss strategy on the next shot. Piotto was a tools management graduate of Conestoga 10 years ago.
(photo by A. Weber)

Business lectures offered

By Bruce Manion

The data-processing micro-concepts course will be changed to a lecture style, similar to universities, for first-year business students for the fall semester.

The class will be a lecture of one hour a week taught by business instructor David Jackson and will be made up of about 90 students, said Andy Clow, a chair for the school of business.

"Afterwards the students will move to the computer labs where two technologists have been hired to train the students with the practical applications," said Clow.

He said that first-year students from all business programs except for computer-programmer analyst, office-system administration and microcomputer-software applications will be scheduled for this weekly lecture.

The two-hour lab portion of the course will then be divided up into three classes of 30 students, with one of the two technologists instructing the classes.

Bill Easdale, vice-president of the school of business, said that

better use of the lecture hall will be made with this higher-volume teaching course.

Clow pointed out that the chief benefits will be the more efficient use of a teacher, plus the consistency of the material taught.

"Different teachers favor certain aspects of the course content. This allows an individual to teach computing consistency to his students by having all students be present at the lecture," Clow said.

Another benefit, he said, is the course will be more "financially advantageous, while the quality of education will not be compromised."

An evaluation by the students will take place midway through the course to determine whether the students believe this format is working efficiently, Clow said.

"It has the potential for courses in the future to shift into this format. With the provincial cutbacks to education, it could be an effective option to lower expenses."

The lecturer, David Jackson, was unavailable for comment at the time this story was written as he was on holidays.

Panel to address future of post-secondary education

By Eric Whitfield

With recent cuts to Ontario's post-secondary education, changes are needed to ensure excellence from universities and colleges in the future, said Minister of Education and Training, John Snobelen.

The minister appointed a panel on July 16 to advise the ministry on future directions for the province's post-secondary education.

The five panel members are to make recommendations, after consulting with the public and stakeholders, on the most appropriate way of sharing costs of education between the government, the students and the private sector. Conestoga College's 1996-97 budget has students paying \$9,860,940 or 21 per cent of the \$46,284,973 needed to operate the school. The government provides \$30,468,596 and the private sector adds \$5,955,437 to the operational funds.

The panel will also advise the government on ways to promote and support co-operation between universities, colleges and secondary schools to ease the confusion for students.

The panel will also suggest how post-secondary schools can meet levels of education demanded by students at existing and future institutions, private and public.

Snobelen said in a press release, "The government is committed to achieving a post-secondary education system based on excellence, accessibility, and accountability."

"It is also important that the quality of our current post-secondary system be strengthened and tied to reforms at the secondary level."

This comes after a cut in government funds to post-secondary education of \$10,318,723 in one year.

The panel members will include David C. Smith, who will chair the panel. Smith, principal emeritus of Queen's University, is a member of the Order of Canada and has served on several committees. He holds degrees from Harvard, Oxford and McMaster universities.

David M. Cameron, chair of the department of political science at Dalhousie University in Halifax, is also a member. Cameron is the author of, *More Than an Academic Question: University, Government and Public Policy in Canada* (1991), on universities and government policy.

Other members are Frederick W.

Gorbet, senior vice-president of operational services (United States) of Manulife Financial in Toronto, Catherine Henderson, president of Centennial College of Applied Arts and Technology in Scarborough, and Bette M. Stephenson, the former Ontario minister of education and of colleges and universities.

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KEEP ON ROCKIN' — The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio has an extensive collection of rock and roll memorabilia. (Photo by Doug Coxson)

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is a music lover's dream

By Doug Coxson

A majestic six-storey glass structure looms over Cleveland's waterfront. Its architecture, a mix of angles, pyramidal points and curving ellipses, is both awe-inspiring and baffling to the first-time observer. For within this seemingly immaculate building lies, not some pretentious collection of art, nor an assembly of smug businessmen settled behind their desks in an array of offices, but a huge collection of some of the most valued treasures from the renegade world of rock 'n' roll.

It's not until you enter the pyramid through the revolving doors and are blasted by the sounds of rock's past that you realize you are in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Wildly painted cars from U2's ZOO-TV Tour hang from the glass ceiling over the box office. In the opposite corner, the 10-metre high "teacher" from Pink Floyd's The Wall raises an oppressive hand your way, and the huge amps from Neil Young's Ragged Glory Tour stretch to the rafters — and this is just the lobby.

Paying the \$12.95 ticket price allows you to enter the museum starting at the basement level in the Ahmet M. Ertegun Exhibition

Hall. This winding maze of a room offers visitors a glimpse into several aspects of rock's varied past. Three separate films are shown continuously in theatres contained in the hall and there are also videos, interactive touch-screens and endless displays containing authentic pieces of rock history.

Elvis's leather stage outfit and guitar from the 1968 "Comeback" television special, Pete Townshend's guitar on which he composed the rock opera, Tommy, along with John Lennon's Sgt. Pepper's jacket are just some of the highlights of this floor.

Thickly encased behind protective glass are the museum's most unique items, such as Jimi Hendrix's original handwritten lyrics for Purple Haze, originally entitled Purple Haze, Jesus Saves, and Jim Morrison's death certificate.

The upper levels of the museum contain exhibits ranging from a tribute to Cleveland's influential disc jockey, Alan Freed, who was credited with popularizing the term "rock 'n' roll", to photographic displays of various artists.

After viewing everything on the lower levels and following a dimly lit, circular staircase to the sixth

floor, the visitor reaches the hall of fame. This large room is illuminated by black light stretching in purple shafts to the invisible ceiling above. At eye-level along the walls are back-lit glass panels containing the etched signatures of the hall's inductees.

Beside the signatures of greats such as Buddy Holly, James Brown, Chuck Berry, The Doors, and Led Zeppelin, are hand-sized video screens that fade in images of the artists along with quotes from their peers. Floating above Neil Young's image is the quote, "A great poet, songwriter, and Canadian," from Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder.

The hall of fame inducts a new group of artists every January, not all of whom are performers or rock artists. Concert promoter and band manager Bill Graham and producer Phil Spector have been inducted along with early influences of rock such as blues legend Lead Belly.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, any rock music lover's dream destination, is open all week from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and for computer users, more information is available on their extensive website at <http://www.rocknroll.org/>

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CD Review

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers
are at their best on *She's the One*

By Scott Nixon

With his latest album, *She's the One*, Tom Petty shows that, at 44, his musical talents aren't eroding. In fact, this soundtrack to the film of the same name rates among Petty's best.

His first studio album with the Heartbreakers since 1991's *Into the Great Wide Open*, *She's the One* sports a tougher sound than 1994's excellent but mellow *Wildflowers*.

The album's first single, *Walls (Circus)*, featuring Lindsey Buckingham on backing vocals, gets *She's the One* off to a strong start with an up-tempo sound Petty delivers effortlessly.

Petty really hits his stride, though, with *Zero From Outer Space*, a humorous rocker featuring such bizarre lines as "I saw you kick that dog when the wind blew off your wig."

The goofy mood set here recalls *Full Moon Fever's* *Zombie Zoo*.

There's also no shortage of love songs on *She's the One*, although on different songs, love means different things.

On *Angel Dream* (No. 4), the album's softest track, Petty

equates his love with religion: "I saw an angel, I saw my fate, I can only thank God it was not too late."

Love has a different meaning, however, on *Hope You Never*, a deceiving song whose mellow sound covers up a harsh message.

Petty smugly sneers, "I hope you never meet no one, hope you treasure your independence."

And on *Supernatural Radio*, Petty expresses how love can also be a dangerous thing: "I don't wanna get my heart broken like lovers do."

She's the One also features two cover songs which seem to be strange choices for Petty but, on closer listening, fit Petty's sound well.

Lucinda Williams's *Change The Locks* rocks along quickly, while Beck's *Asshole* echoes the irreverent attitude Petty displayed on his earlier albums.

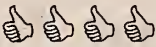
As always, Petty's sound is heavily influenced by Roger McGuinn's work with the Byrds. This sound is evident on *California*, a light, up-tempo song with the chorus, "California's been good to me,

hope it don't fall into the sea."

The album ends with one of its stronger tracks, *Hung Up And Overdue*, on which Petty does his best at a John Lennon imitation.

To make the sound complete, Ringo Starr guests on drums and Heartbreaker Mike Campbell sounds eerily like George Harrison on slide guitar.

With *She's the One*, Petty remains one of rock's most important voices and joins Lou Reed and Neil Young as rockers who refuse to go gently into that good night.



Review Guide

- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★ Very Good
- ★★★ Good
- ★★ Poor
- ★ Turkey

Theatre Review
Through the Looking
Glass treats the senses

By Allison Dempsey

Although perhaps not as well-known as its predecessor, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass* reunites the Stratford Festival audience with familiar characters, poems and predicaments, as young Alice travels through the mirror to a world where everything is backward, and the comforts of home seem far away.

The title character is played competently by 12-year-old Ashley Taylor, and although she is outclassed by her seasoned co-stars, she handles a difficult and demanding role with charm, professionalism and spirited youthfulness.

Her speaking voice is a bit stilted and unpolished, but her singing is always a treat.

It's unfortunate there aren't more songs for the audience to hear in the production.

Mervyn Blake, Barbara Byrne, William Needles and Michelle Fisk as the kings and queens add humor and strength to the production, and veteran Douglas Rain brings down the house with his hilarious nonsensical rhymes portraying the character of Humpty Dumpty.

Rain also plays the Walrus to Douglas Chamberlain's Carpenter to the audience's amazement.

Bernard Hopkins and Keith Dinicol are also entertaining as Tweedledum and Tweedledee, the exasperatingly stubborn "twins" whom Alice encounters while on her way home from behind the looking glass.

Although not billed as a musical, *Through the Looking Glass* boasts numerous high-energy and vastly entertaining songs where the entire cast frolics with "flowers," "horses," and a life-size Jabberwocky which loses its head.

The real stars of the play are the intricate and elaborate set and costume designs, which add endless realism to a surrealistic play.

Although there were numerous children in the audience, and the story is thought of as a children's tale, there are some frightening scenes and loud noises.

Alice Through the Looking Glass plays at the Avon Theatre in Stratford until Nov. 2.



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